

Faculty of Music

University of Toronto

Historical Performance Ensembles

Gregory Johnston, director

Music to Die For

A Programme of Mortality in Music



Thursday, March 30, 1995

8:00 pm

Walter Hall, Edward Johnson Building

PROGRAMME

Sei pur bella pur vezzosa

George Frideric Handel
(1685-1759)

Julie Harris, *soprano*
John Edwards, *theorbo*
Mary-Katherine Finch, *baroque cello*
Anna Chan, *harpsichord*

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Suite in F major

Louis Couperin
(ca. 1626-61)

Prélude
Allemande
Courante
Sarabande
Branle de Basque
Gigue
Chaconne
Tombeau de Monsieur Blancrocher

Anna Chan, *harpsichord*

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Crucifissione e morte
di N. S. Giesu Christo

Alessandro Stradella
(1644-82)

Dean Kustra, *counter tenor*
Deanna Vardy, *baroque violin*
Jason Collins *baroque violin*
Katherine Hill, *viola da gamba*
Anna Chan, *chamber organ*

INTERMISSION

English Carol: *Eya, martyr Stephane* Anon.
(mid 15th century)

Ballade: *En Remirant* Philipoctus de Caserta
(fl. 1375)

Ballade: *Mersi ou Mort* Anon.
(late 14th century)

English Carol: *Saint Thomas Honour We* Anon.
(mid 15th century)

Katherine Hill, *soprano*
Mark Howard, *baritone*
Julia Seager, *medieval harp, soprano*
Brian Power, *vielle, baritone*

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La Convalescente François Couperin
Musette de Taverni (1668-1733)

Carole Lin, *harpsichord*

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"Thy Hand, Belinda" and Henry Purcell
"When I am laid", *Dido and Aeneas* (1659-95)

Andrea Bellefeuille, *soprano*
Deanna Vardy, *baroque violin*
Jason Collins *baroque violin*
Beverlee Rapp, *baroque viola*
Katherine Hill, *viola da gamba*
Anna Chan, *harpsichord*

TRANSLATIONS

Sei pur bella pur vezzosa

Aria:


You are so beautiful, so charming, white Rose,
In the middle of the flowers.
Varied are their lovers, you alone boast your brilliant
purity.

Recitative:

Dear shining Rose, unobserved and happy, with sweet
fragrance,
Lift from among the other flowers your modest brow.
Beautiful with subtlety, armed for defense,
And not for harming the soft Venus flower,
You scorn being queen, deserving blame.
The other dons the purple robes, perhaps from blood or
shame,
And goes now with pride for another's wound.
If one feels but love of a Kingdom, one does not go about
Disturbing lovers or bestowing flowers.
Courteous without pomp and without lovers,
Outside of envy itself...

Aria:

Live in peace, live for yourself
There grows a feeling in my heart, in the brilliance
Of your presence, the beautiful desire of liberty.
I am taunted by your colour, though I have lost
innocence,
It is rather peace I feel I no longer have.



Crucifissione e morte di N. S. Giesu Christo
(The Crucifixion and Death of Our Saviour Jesus Christ)

Recitative:

By cruel spikes
On the afflicted beam
Eternal love languished crucified
When, joined with the exiled
In sweet breaths of bloody agony,
He revealed his martyrdom.

Aria:

"Already finished with torments
Is the severity that wounded me;
Already have I crossed those torrents
That stained my grief with blood.
For what my faith seeks,
My heart has all accomplished:
The hour has arrived,
Arise, my heart, then die!

Already the ropes and chains
My heart gladly bears;
Already having bled to death amidst the agonies,
This heart has at last grown weak.
In such a fatal storm
This bosom has now foundered:
The hour has come,
Arise, my heart, then die!"

Recitative:

Thus is shown through his death the proof
Of such burning love.

Aria:

Of such spoken sweetness,
What thinks you, o heart?

Ballade: Mersi ou Mort

Mercy or death have I long desired,
And I have not had such a desire without reason.
Since, through mercy I could be healthy,
Or through death, all my pains could end.
If both of these fail, I will languish until it kills me,
And in languishing there is no real joy.
So I ask the god of Love whether or not it will be death.

English Carol: Saint Thomas honour we

Burden I & II:

We honour Saint Thomas,
Through whose blood the Holy Church is made free.

Verses:

All the Holy Church was but a slave,
But by the king and all the temporal lords,
He was slain in Christ's hall;
And this set all things in unity,
Since his death had such power.

To all those who were exiled,
Among them women children, old men, and young babes
That would weep instead of sing,
Saint Thomas said: "Be welcome,
This land is now your own country".

But the king and his host approached,
Through the cornfields and the light chaff,
As the farmer below sowed his grain;
And Christ said to Saint Thomas:
"My church will be hallowed with your blood".

English carol: Eya, martyr Stephane

Burden:

Oh Stephen, martyr, pray for us,
We who pray to you.

Verses:


We bear in mind the martyr
Who triumphed on this day,
And went with bliss to heaven;
Grant us also heaven's grace.

He was stoned with great stones
By a violent, irreverent people;
Then he saw Christ sitting in his seat,
At the right hand of God the Father.

You prayed to Christ for your enemies,
O unconquered martyr;
Pray also for us to that high Justice,
So that we may be cleansed of our sins. Amen.

Ballade: En Remirant

When I glanced at your lovely picture,
Which reflects your sweet image,
Love touched me with such ardent desire
That, alas! my heart is unable to bear it.
Sweet Lady without peer,
If your graciousness does not come to my rescue,
For your love, Lady, I will die.



Acknowledgments

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The Faculty of Music Historical Performance Ensembles consists of a number of vocal and instrumental groups who are involved in the interpretation of music according to the style of its time. The ensembles include graduate and undergraduate students at the University of Toronto under the direction of Gregory Johnston, assisted by Mary Enid Haines and Brian Power.

Join the Uof T Baroque Orchestra, Choir & Soloists
Kevin Mallon, director &
Baroque Dancers directed by Elaine Biagi-Turner
Friday, April 7 at 8 pm, Walter Hall
The 300th Anniversary of the Death of Henry Purcell
The Tempest
Tickets \$15/\$10- Box Office 978-3744